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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Draft report

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Chapter I
Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

1. Consistent with articles 13, 14 and 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recognizes that indigenous peoples and their nations, institutions and governments, including the Maskwacis Cree in Canada, have the right to declare their respective indigenous languages as official languages of their peoples in their lands and territories, and the Permanent Forum encourages them to do so.

2. Taking into account paragraphs 11, 14, 15, 17 and 26 of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples held in 2014 (see General Assembly resolution 69/2) and article 23 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum reminds Member States of the need to implement their commitments through national action plans, strategies or other measures, developed jointly and effectively with indigenous representatives on the principle of free, prior and informed consent, in particular to ensure the adequate training and availability of health professionals in indigenous communities as a matter of urgency.

3. The Permanent Forum welcomes the appointment by the President of the General Assembly of James Anaya (United States of America); Claire Charters (Aotearoa/New Zealand); Ambassador Kai Sauer, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations; and Ambassador Ama Akyaa Pobee, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations, as his advisers and fully supports

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their efforts to identify ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them. The Permanent Forum expert members look forward to focused discussion and fruitful collaboration with them as they endeavour to finalize their mandate.

4. Indigenous peoples, including Ktunaxa Nation in Canada, Aboriginal people of Australia and Mayan people of Guatemala, continue to face destruction and profoundly negative effects on their religious, spiritual and cultural sites, affecting their ongoing sacred practices. Consistent with articles 11, 12, 13, 19, 25, 31 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and paragraphs 20 and 27 of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum recommends that States, in their national action plans, strategies and other measures:

(a) Take effective measures to ensure that indigenous peoples' spiritual and cultural sites are protected;

(b) Ensure that, consistent with article 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, indigenous peoples are not forced to defend these rights against proposed development projects or through litigation in courts;

(c) Actively resolve disputes directly with indigenous peoples, consistent with article 19 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, given that these rights constitute critical elements of the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples.